IDW
ISSUE
1
BALL • MEBBERSON
Strawberry Short

Strawberry Shortcake™

The Baby Berrykin Baking Challenge

(Part 1 of 2)

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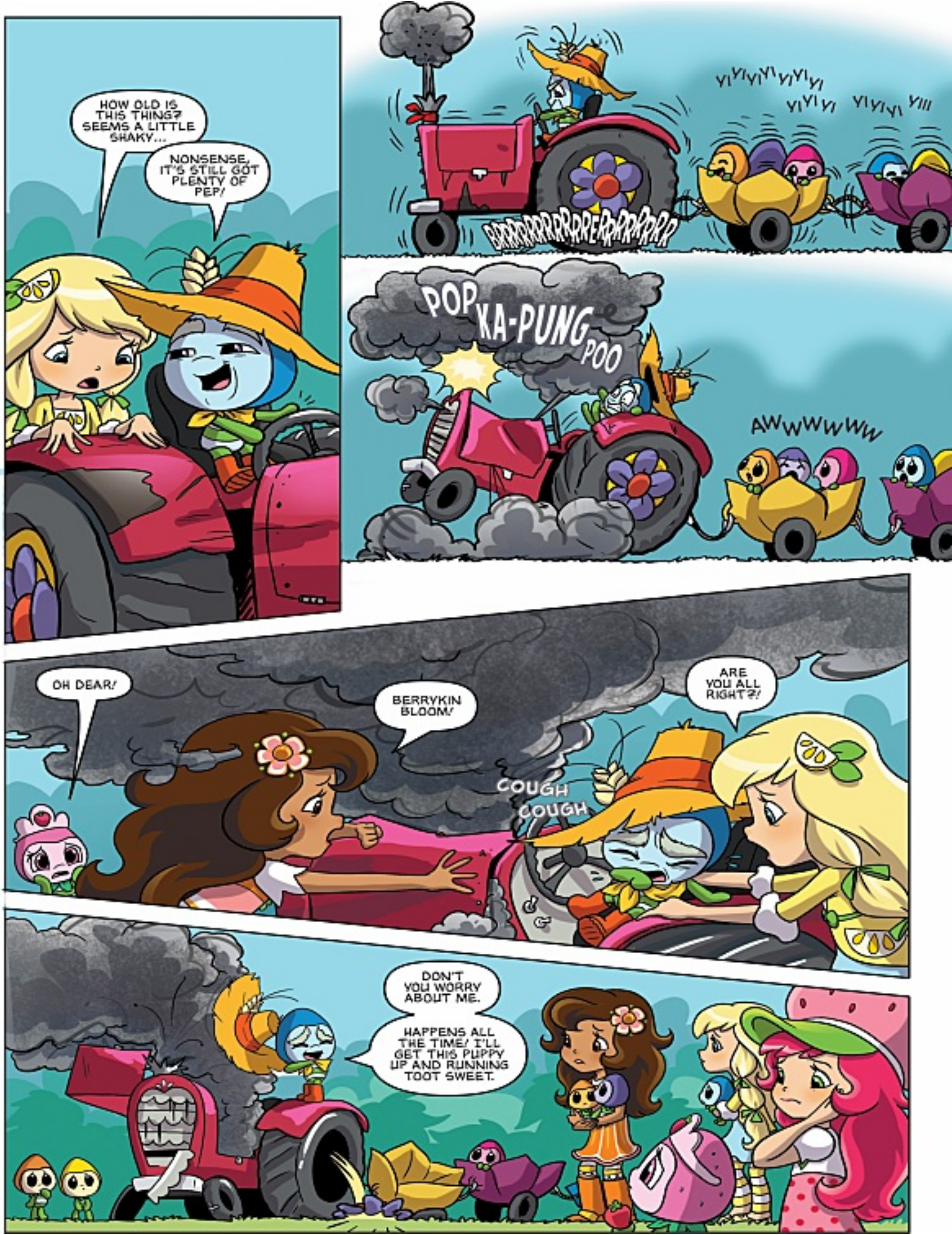
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE PLANS FOR THE INTERIOR.
THEY LOOK RIGHT TO ME, SOUR...
I WAS SURE IT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE A DUCK PATTERN. SQUIRRELS JUST LOOK WEIRD ON A BOAT.
I LIKE SQUIRRELS.
I LIKE SQUIRRELS TOO BUT THAT'S NOT THE POINT, SWEET...
HEY PLUM—
SQUIRT
GASP!

HEE
HEE
HEE
UH OH...
HEE
HEE
HEE
HEE
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ORGANIZING THIS REFURBISHMENT, STRAWBERRY.
THE BERRYKIN NURSERY PLAYGROUND WAS LONG OVERDUE.
WE WERE HAPPY TO— UM... HELP.
AND SUCH CREATIVE IDEAS!
I'M SURE THE REST OF THE BERRYKINS ARE AS DELIGHTED WITH YOUR SOLUTIONS AS I AM.
WHO'S READY FOR A TRACTOR RIDE?
YAAAAAAYYYYY


HOW OLD IS THIS THING? SEEMS A LITTLE SHAKY...
NONSENSE, IT'S STILL GOT PLENTY OF PEP!
VIVIVIVIVIVIVIVIVIVIVIVIVIII
BRRRRRRRRRRRERRRRRRRP
POP
KA-PUNG
POO
AWWWWWW
OH DEAR!
BERRYKIN BLOOM!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
COUGH
COUGH
DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT ME.
HAPPENS ALL THE TIME! I'LL GET THIS PUPPY UP AND RUNNING TOOT SWEET.

—AND THAT'S HOW IT WAS THE WHOLE AFTERNOON— BRRR—WANG—KAPUT.
HE WOULD SAY, "I GOT IT!" BUT THEN HE DIDN'T GET IT AND ALL THE BABY BERRYKINS CRIED...
AWWW!
IT WAS RATHER TRAGIC. WE REALLY NEED A NEW BABY RIDE FOR THE NURSERY.
WE COULD HAVE A FUNDRAISER!
MMM, YES WE COULD DO THAT...
BUT AFTER THE BAKE SALE, THE CANDY CANE GIVING TREE, AND THE EAT-A-MARSHMALLOW-MARATHON, I THINK BERRY BITTY CITY MAY BE TAPPED OUT FOR THE YEAR.
I REMEMBER THE MARATHON.
SO MANY MARSHMALLOWS...
WE COULD PULL THE BABY BERRYKINS AROUND THE YARD OURSELVES?
WE'LL SEE HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT AFTER AN HOUR OF TRYING IT, LEMON MERINGUE.
IN FIVE MINUTES YOU'D HAVE JELLY ARMS!
♪TEE-HEE♪
RAILROADS!

WE'RE GOING TO NEED SOME CONTEXT FOR THAT ONE, BLUEBERRY MUFFIN.
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE RAIL DAYS BAKING COMPETITION!
BIG APPLE CITY IS BIG BECAUSE IT WAS FOUNDED ON THE RAILROAD LINE.
STILL NOT FOLLOWING THIS...
EVERY YEAR THEY CELEBRATE THEIR HISTORY WITH A BAKING COMPETITION—
—LOOK AT THIS YEAR'S PRIZE!
THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED!
WIN A COMPETITION LIKE THAT IN A MAJOR CITY? IT WON'T BE EASY...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, STRAWBERRY?
WE HAVE THE BEST BAKER IN THREE COUNTIES RIGHT HERE!

PROBLEM SOLVED.
FASTEST BRAINSTORM EVER!
WAIT!
I'M NOT GOING TO JUST WALK INTO A WIN. I HAVEN'T EVEN ENTERED YET.
WE KNOW THAT. BUT WE ALSO KNOW HOW GOOD YOU ARE.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS WIN THE REGIONAL QUALIFYING EVENT ON SATURDAY—
"—AT THE CAROB COUNTY FAIR."
Carob County
OH...
IS THAT ALL?
BUTTER

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THE REGISTRATION SHEET? RIGHT OVER HERE, DEARIE.
THANKS, I WASN'T SURE WHERE TO GO.
I'M STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE.
I'M GRANDMA DAISYBUG. BEEN BAKING LONGER THAN BERRY BITTY CITY'S BEEN A CITY!
SO DON'T FEEL TOO BADLY WHEN I COMPLETELY DESTROY YOU.
TRUCKSTOP BEE DON'T SIGN NOTHIN' HE AIN'T READ.
UH...
IT'S JUST A LIST WITH OUR NAMES ON IT—
PARDON ME, COULD YOU HOLD THIS PLEASE?
WHO'S GOT SUSTAINABILITY WITH LOCAL BERRIES— GLUTEN-FREE! DELIVERED IN A RECYCLED PAN—IT'S "PIES BY PIEMANNE!"
I'M STILL WORKING ON THE JINGLE.
?!

STEVE PIEMANNE, YOOTOOBZ PERSONALITY. YOU MIGHT HAVE SEEN MY ONLINE STORE—EVERYTHING'S ORGANIC, AUTHENTIC, FAIR-TRADE, AND LOCALLY SOURCED! ARE YOU VEGAN? YOU SEEM VEGAN...
NOT REALLY. I'M STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE WITH THE BERRY BITTY CAFE.
?

STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE! OH! IT'S SUCH A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU AT LAST, YOU'RE MY IDOL!
ME?

YOUR CAFÉ IS SO SUCCESSFUL, WHO HASN'T HEARD OF YOU?
LOTS OF PEOPLE, I THINK...
EVERYONE JUST RAVES ABOUT YOUR CINNAMON ROLLS!
WHO IS EVERYONE?

I'M STILL JUST GETTING BY. THE YOOTOOBZ BUSINESS IS SO COMPETITIVE THESE DAYS.
A LITTLE BIG APPLE PUBLICITY COULD GET ME A SHOP OF MY OWN.

I CAN'T SAY I'M TOO IMPRESSED WITH OUR COMPETITION.
LOCAL YOKELS MIGHT AMUSE THE COUNTRY CROWD BUT IN BIG APPLE CITY THAT HOMESPUN THING IS SO CLICHÉ.

I'M SURE YOU AND I WILL OVERCOME OUR HUMBLE ROOTS. CREAM RISES TO THE TOP, YOU KNOW!
RIIIIGHT.

HEY FOLKS! LET'S GET YOU GUYS ON STAGE, YOUR STATIONS ARE READY.
WELCOME TO THE CAROB COUNTY BAKING COMPETITION QUALIFIERS!
I'M DJ PILL AND I'M GONNA BE YOUR HOST FOR THIS EVENT FULL OF TOTAL AWESOMENESS!
zZz
OUR CONTESTANTS WILL BAKE FOR THREE ROUNDS, AND THEY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S COMING!
THEY'LL BE JUDGED ON TASTE AND PRESENTATION, AND AFTER EACH ROUND, ONE COMPETITOR—
—WILL BE ELIMINATED!
CAROB
1
2
3
TODAY'S WINNER WILL GO ON TO COMPETE IN THE RAIL DAYS BAKING COMPETITION IN BIG APPLE CITY!
WOOOHOOOO
WOOOHOOOO
GO STRAWBERRY, GO!
SNERK
LET'S GET THIS FLAVOR PARTY STARTED!
2

CONTESTANTS! FIRST ROUND IS... BANANA BREAD!
WE BRING THE BANANAS, YOU BRING THE MAGIC!
CREW
CINNAMON, BANANA PUDDING MIX—ARGH! DID I BRING ANYTHING I NEED?
WHAM
YIPES!
IS HER BATTER ALREADY DONE?! HOW IS HER BATTER ALREADY DONE??
AND I DON'T GET THIS PIEMANNE GUY... HAS HE EVEN STARTED?
1

1
2
BURBLE
BURBLE
BURBLE
BLUB
BLUB
BANG
BLUB
BLUB
BLUB
BLUB
BLUB
YOU PUT YEAST IN YOUR BANANA BREAD?!
TRUCKSTOP KNOWS BETTER THAN THAT.
DEPLOY THE CLEANUP CREW!
WHACK
WHACK
WHACK
WHACK
BACK! BACK!

MAN, THAT'S A TOUGH BLOW...
LOOKS LIKE YOUR BREAD IS TOAST, AND THAT MEANS—*TOTAL ELIMINATION!*
TRUCKSTOP IS ASHAMED.
BUT WE STILL NEED A WINNER...
CONTESTANTS, PRESENT YOUR BREAD!
HOW DID STEVE FINISH HIS BANANA BREAD? I NEVER SAW HIM DO *ANYTHING.*
THE WINNER OF THE BANANA BREAD CHALLENGE IS—GRANDMA *DAISYBUG!*
WELL, OF COURSE... IF YOU USE *THAT* MUCH SUGAR, NATURAL SWEETENERS JUST *CAN'T* COMPETE.

"ROUND TWO IS– CAKE!"
1
2
WHITE ICING, CHOCOLATE ICING—I NEED TO MAKE A DECISION OR I WON'T HAVE TIME TO—
WHAAAA—?
MIGHT AS WELL PACK IT UP NOW, DEARIE—GRANDMA'S ON HER "A" GAME TODAY!
?
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
OH MY...
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

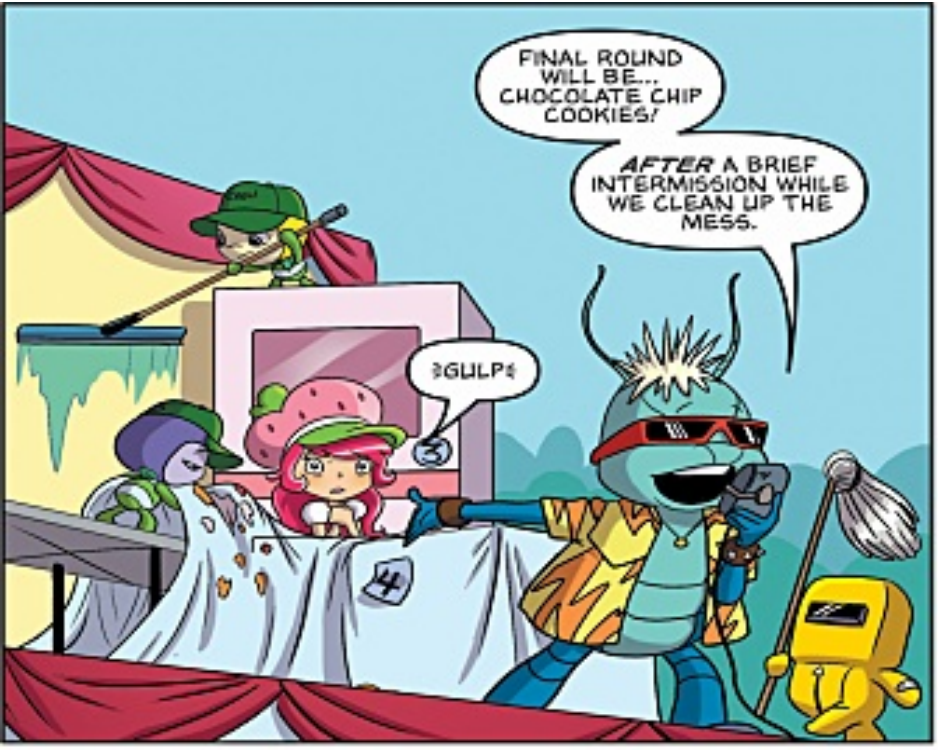
KA-FOOOOOM

BLUUUUURRRGGGG

TOO BAD, GRANDMA. THIS COULD HAVE BEEN A TASTE EXPLOSION—
YOU KNOW, IF IT WASN'T... A LITERAL EXPLOSION. YOU'RE OUTTA HERE.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED...

HMMM...
I'M SORRY TO SEE YOU GO.
THANK YOU, DEAR. AND I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW—

ROUND TWO GOES TO—STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE!
—IF YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SABOTAGED MY CAKE I HOPE YOU FALL FLAT ON YOUR FACE.


FINAL ROUND WILL BE... CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES!
AFTER A BRIEF INTERMISSION WHILE WE CLEAN UP THE MESS.
:GULP!

ONE MORE ROUND TO GO, YOU'VE GOT THIS!
THE EVENTS HAVE BEEN... INTERESTING!
IS THERE ANY OF GRANDMA'S CAKE LEFT?

LEMON! WE'RE HERE TO SUPPORT OUR FRIEND?
I'M HERE FOR STRAWBERRY! CAN'T I ALSO BE HERE FOR CAKE?

I'M WORRIED, ORANGE BLOSSOM. GRANDMA DAISYBUG SAID SOMETHING TO ME ABOUT SABOTAGE.
SABOTAGE?
ARE YOU SURE?

NO, THAT'S THE PROBLEM. I DON'T HAVE ANY PROOF.

BUT STEVE HAS BEEN ACTING REALLY WEIRD. I MEAN, I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM ACTUALLY BAKE ANYTHING.

HE ALWAYS HAS SOMETHING READY FOR THE JUDGING.
IT'S LIKE HE KNEW WHAT THE CHALLENGES WERE GOING TO BE AHEAD OF TIME AND BROUGHT THINGS WITH HIM.
IF THAT'S TRUE, SOMEONE ON THE STAFF WOULD HAVE TO BE IN ON IT.
YOU SHOULD GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS, STRAWBERRY. IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO AND—
I KNOW, I KNOW...
I COULD BE NEXT.
DJ PILL! I NEED YOUR HELP, PLEASE...
MY OVEN ISN'T GETTING WARM ENOUGH. COULD SOMEONE LOOK AT IT BEFORE WE START AGAIN?
SURE THING, I'LL GET A BERRKYIN DUDE RIGHT ON IT.

THEY KNOW EACH OTHER?
THERE'S NO WAY THAT'S A FRIENDLY CHAT.
STRAWBERRY WAS RIGHT!
WE SAW A BERRYKIN REPORT TO STEVE—WATCH YOUR BACK!
1
2
I HEARD THERE WAS A PROBLEM WITH YOUR OVEN, MISS SHORTCAKE?
CREW
YOUR IGNITOR MIGHT BE DEFECTIVE—OR SOMEONE MIGHT HAVE SPARKED YOUR ELECTRODE? IF YOUR VOLTAGE ISN'T PROPERLY GROUNDED YOU REALLY HAVE TO GET IN THERE...
1
2
EXCEPT THAT MY OVEN IS JUST FINE—STEVE!
BANG
2

HOW DID YOU RECOGNIZE ME?
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW IMPORTANT THIS COMPETITION IS TO ME!
IT WAS IMPORTANT TO TRUCKSTOP AND GRANDMA TOO, TRY AGAIN.
1
2
IF THE PUBLIC THINKS I'M A CHEAT IT WILL DESTROY EVERYTHING I'VE TRIED TO BUILD...
PLEASE, STRAWBERRY! MY ENTIRE LIVELIHOOD IS IN YOUR HANDS!
ALL RIGHT ALL RIGHT!
IF YOU LOSE THE NEXT ROUND I WON'T SAY ANYTHING AND YOU CAN LOSE WITH DIGNITY.
IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE ANY REAL PROOF.
BUT IF YOU WIN I EXPECT YOU TO TURN DOWN YOUR CHANCE TO GO TO BIG APPLE CITY.
C·C
OH, THAT'S SUCH A RELIEF...
YOU KNOW, IF YOU PUT MORE TIME INTO YOUR FOOD AND LESS TIME INTO FOOLING AROUND YOU MIGHT BE WINNING THIS COMPETITION.
A LITTLE SALT WOULD GO A LONG WAY. AND MAYBE CHUNK YOUR CHOCOLATE INSTEAD OF USING CHIPS?
OH YES, YOU'RE RIGHT, ABSOLUTELY!

WE'RE BACK ON TRACK—CONTESTANTS, START YOUR COOKIES!
I GUESS HE TOOK ME SERIOUSLY.
THESE ARE BOTH *OFF* THE *CHAIN*...
I JUST NEED TO TRY A FEW MORE...
WHAT'S EVEN STOPPING ME... I'M SENDING YOU *BOTH* TO *BIG APPLE CITY*!
I THINK YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, RIGHT STEVE?
AH! YES.
I... I HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE...
THANK YOU FOR MAKING ME A PART OF THIS VERY SPECIAL EVENT. I'M JUST A HUMBLE BAKER WHO DOESN'T DESERVE THE PRAISE YOU'VE HEAPED UPON ME.
HOWEVER—
—I CAN'T *WAIT* TO GO TO BIG APPLE CITY WITH STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE!

YOU'RE TOTALLY AWESOME, MAN. REALLY DIG THAT PURPLE THING YOU GOT GOING ON. IT LOOKS GOOD ON STAGE.
OH?
SIGH!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CONGRATULATIONS, STRAWBERRY! WE KNEW YOU COULD DO IT.
I DON'T LIKE TYING FOR THE WIN UNDER SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES.
AT LEAST YOU KNOW YOU BAKED WITH INTEGRITY.
HIM?—NOT SO MUCH.
AND DON'T FORGET TO LOOK FOR ME AT THE RAIL DAYS BAKING COMPETITION UNDER MY NEW BRAND—
The PURPLE PIEMAN
741
302
TO BE CONTINUED...

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Strawberry Shortcake™

Welcome to the first issue of IDW's *Strawberry Shortcake*! I'm David and I'm your humble editor on this book. I'm also proof that it is okay for boys to like *Strawberry Shortcake*!

If you are picking this book up in April, please be on the lookout for the **free Zero issue coming your way on MAY 7th**, Free Comic Book Day!

And now, without further ado, let's learn more about the great people making this comic!

Artist, Amy Mebberson is an Australian comic artist and illustrator who has spent most of her career with the Walt Disney Company and Hasbro. She has worked as a comic and fine artist on various Disney, Pixar, and Muppet properties and currently draws *Disney Princesses* for Joe Books and *Strawberry Shortcake* for IDW Publishing. For Hasbro, Amy has drawn *My Little Pony* comics and storybooks as well as toy design on *Disney Princesses* and *My Little Pony: Equestria Girls*.

Amy lives in Southern California and spends too much time at Disneyland.

Writer, Georgia Ball has been writing comics since 2004 when she launched a webcomic with her artist and husband, Scott. *Scooter and Ferret* ran until 2010 and landed her a writing gig for a comic about one of her childhood favorites: *Strawberry Shortcake*. Since then she's written comics for *Transformers*, *Littlest Pet Shop*, and Disney.

When she isn't writing, Georgia is a web developer in mobile advertising. She and her husband live in Seattle with a dog, a cat, and one very precocious little girl. Their latest creator-owned project is underway on Follipops.com.

Colorist, Fernando Peniche is a Mexican comic artist and designer who has collaborated on comics like *Megamind*, *Kung Fu Panda*, *The Croods*, *How To Train Your Dragon*, among many others. Fernando has also worked with characters such as *The Phantom* (Moonstone Books) and *Joe Palooka* (IDW Publishing). Fernando currently is working as the main artist in the *Fantasy Comic Chronicles of Amaltea* and designing characters for board games and apps.

That's all we have time for this month. We'd love to hear from you!

Send us your Shortcake selfies, well wishes, and baking recipes so we can print them! Make sure you mark any emails or letters with 'Okay To Print' somewhere. Address is at the top of the previous page!

Having a Berry Fun Time,

David Hedgecock
Managing Editor

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

Ted Adams here. I'm going to be your monthly guide through the IDW/Top Shelf checklist, pointing out our big hits and bringing your attention to some gems that you might otherwise miss.

Another big month at IDW starts with something small… the return of The Micronauts to comics. In 1979, I was eleven years old, and my Micronauts toys and comics were my most prized possessions. I still have some bits and pieces of my toys, and those comics are still in my collection more than 35 years later.

The Micronauts creative team—**Cullen Bunn** and **David Baldeón**—have put together an action-packed space opera under covers by Baldeón, **Gabriel Rodriguez**, **Butch Guice**, and **Michael Golden**. **J.H. Williams III**, who shares my passion for *The Micronauts*, is also providing covers for the first four issues—his first work for IDW.

Other new releases in April include:

- ***Strawberry Shortcake*** #1 by **Georgia Ball** and **Amy Mebberson**, available in regular and strawberry-scented editions.
- ***Star Trek: Manifest Destiny*** #s 1 & 2 by **Mike Johnson**, **Ryan Parrott**, and **Angel Hernandez**. Captain Kirk and the Enterprise crew vs. the Klingons in the ultimate showdown!
- ***Dungeons & Dragons*** #1, which sees **Jim Zub** return to the world of D&D for an all-new story. He's accompanied by **Nelson Daniel** on art.
- ***The X-Files*** #1 by **Joe Harris** and **Matthew Dow Smith**, a new series that's executive produced by *X-Files* creator **Chris Carter**.
- ***Hot Damn*** #1 by **Ryan Ferrier** and **Valentin Ramon**, the creative team of *D4VE* take us on a wild tour of Hell.

Top Shelf has ***Apocrypha Now*** by **Mark Russell** and **Shannon Wheeler**, the sequel to *God is Disappointed in You*.

Earth Day is April 22nd, and I'm happy to announce that all five ***Michael Recycle*** picture books by **Ellie Bethel** and **Alexandra Colombo** are now available again.

Random Encounter: Plains of the Troll King is the latest from **IDW Games**. Designed by Jamie Keddie, you can raid your friends or adventure alone in an attempt to slay the creatures of the Troll King's Kingdom and harvest their loot. This quick-paced card game is designed for 1 to 5 players.

April 1st is a big day for IDW—the first episode of ***Wynonna Earp*** airs on **Syfy** at 10 p.m. **IDW Entertainment** is the worldwide distributor for the show that's being produced by **Seven24**.

Wynonna Earp was created by my good friend, **Beau Smith**, and **Emily Andras** is the writer/showrunner who developed it for television. Emily's version of *Wynonna Earp* finds our lead character, the great-great-granddaughter of Wyatt Earp, summoned back to her home town where she discovers she's the only one who can stop the demonically possessed people that Wyatt Earp brought down when he was a lawman. Wynonna's recruited to join the secret Black Badge Division of the U.S. Marshals by Agent Dolls and gets help from her sister, Waverly, and the immortal Doc Holliday.

We had hundreds of great actors audition for the lead roles, and we got our first choice for each—**Melanie Scrofano** as our lead character, **Shamier Anderson** as Agent Dolls, **Dominique Provost-Chalkley** as Waverly, and **Tim Rozon** as Doc Holliday. My wife and I had fun learning how to shoot guns with Tim and Dominique (with Shamier as one of our instructors), and one of the best experiences of my life was taking Beau and his wife to Canada to meet the folks who were bringing his creation to life.

We're all very proud of the show and we're excited to share it with you!

SON OF ULTRON